

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01
/087 W

-----160313Z 091447 /72

R 150450Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3681
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1717

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS, PLO
SUBJECT: NAYIF HAWATMAH: SITUATION IN THE SOUTH

REF: TEL AVIV 2310

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER ON APRIL 11, JAMES M. DORSEY, FOREIGN EDITOR OF CHRISTIAN PRESS FOUNDATION IN NETHERLANDS (SEE REFTEL), COMMENTED ON REMARKS OF NAYIF HAWATMAH, SECRETARY GENERAL OF PDFLP, AND ON SITUATION IN SOUTH.

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2. REMARKS OF HAWATMAH.

A. DORSEY SAID HE HAD CONTINUED INTERVIEW OF HAWATMAH BEGUN IN CAIRO AND THAT HAWATMAH HAD SAID:

-- FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS "WITH LIMITED MEANS FOR

LIMITED PURPOSES." PALESTINIAN OBJECTIVE WAS TO PRESSURE KFOR FRONT INTO COOPERATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS.

-- PDFLP BELIEVED THAT ANY INTERPRETATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS MUST GUARANTEE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON RIGHT TO: (1) DEFEND THEIR CAMPS; (2) KEEP THEIR ARMS (DORSEY DID NOT RECALL WHETHER HAWATMAH SPECIFIED HEAVY OR LIGHT WEAPONS); AND (3) USE SOUTH, AT LEAST ARQUB, FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL.

-- PDFLP DISAPPROVED OF TALKS BETWEEN PLO OFFICIAL ABU MAZIN AND ISRAELI DOVES IN PARIS. ALTHOUGH ISRAELI PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTED PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS, THEIR PALESTINIAN INTERLOCUTORS DID NOT. PDFLP ENDORSED A NEW PLAN OF PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CALL FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS, BOTH ZIONIST AND NON-ZIONIST, TO FORM AN "ALLIANCE" OF "RIGHT-THINKING" PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES.

B. ACCORDING TO DORSEY, HAWATMAH, WHO WAS BORN IN JORDAN, MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS MARXIST-LENINIST FIRST AND FIGHTER FOR PALESTINIAN NATIONALISM SECOND. HAWATMAH SAID THAT THE PDFLP COULD ACCEPT A PALESTINIAN MINI-STATE ALONGSIDE THE STATE OF ISRAEL, BECAUSE PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE IN THESE TWO STATES COULD WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A SOCIALIST MID-EAST. DORSEY COMMENTED THAT HAWATMAH'S VIEWS ON A MINI-STATE THUS DIFFERED FROM THOSE OF OTHER PLO OFFICIALS WHO SAID UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT MINI-STATE WAS ONLY AN INTERIM STEP TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF THE ZIONIST STATE OF ISRAEL. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. THE SOUTH.

A. DORSEY SAID HE HAD VISITED SOUTH LEBANON ON APRIL 6. FATAH, PFLP, AND PDFLP MEMBERS HAD ALL TOLD HIM THAT SYRIAN WERE HELPING PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH IN TWO WAYS: (1) BY ALLOWING SUPPLIES TO PASS THROUGH SYRIAN LINES; AND (2) BY SENDING SAIQA TO FIGHT ON SIDE OF PALESTINIANS.

B. DORSEY HAD INTERVIEWED 16-YEAR-OLD PHALANGE PRISONER OF PALESTINIANS FOR OVER ONE HOUR. PRISONER WAS WEARING "OBVIOUSLY ISRAELI UNIFORM" AND STATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED MILITARY TRAINING IN ISRAEL.

C. DORSEY ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH "RELIABLE PLO SOURCES" IN BEIRUT ON APRIL 11, WHO SAID THAT ARAFAT HAD BEEN IN NABATIYAH ON APRIL 10. UPON RETURNING TO BEIRUT FOLLOWING DAY, ARAFAT TOLD THESE SOURCES THAT PLO HAD DECIDED TO OBSERVE A "UNILATERAL" CEASE-FIRE. WHILE SOME SHELLING

MIGHT CONTINUE, ARAFAT SAID, PLO WOULD ACCEPT STATUS QUO
ON GROUND, WHEREBY CHRISTIANS WOULD RETAIN CONTROL OF
MARJAYUN AND PALESTINIANS WOULD KEEP TAIBEH.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, LE, IS, PLO, (DORSEY, JAMES M), (HAWATMAH, NAYIF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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